

Message Text

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TAGS: PINT GR

SUBJECT: CARAMANLIS ONE MORE DENIES ALLEGATIONS OF PRIOR
AGREEMENT NOT TO PROSECUTE JUNTAISTS

1. ONCE AGAIN THE CARAMANLIS GOVERNMENT HAS DEEMED IT
EXPEDIENT TO DISCLAIM PUBLICLY THE ALLEGATION THAT THE
PRIME MINISTER HAD MADE A DEAL WITH THE LEADERS OF THE
MILITARY DICTATORSHIP PRIOR TO HIS RETURN TO GREECE TO
ASSUME POWER BY AGREEING NOT TO SEEK RETRIBUTION AGAINST
THEM.

2. YESTERDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, IN HIS CONCLUDING PLEA AT
THE TRIAL OF THE MILITARY POLICE OFFICERS ACCUSED OF
TORTURE, ONE OF THE DEFENSE LAWYERS ARGUED THAT HIS
CLIENT SHOULD NOT BE PROSECUTED SINCE THE CHARGES
AGAINST HIM SHOULD HAVE BEEN DISMISSED UNDER THE
COMPREHENSIVE AMNESTY ISSUED IN JULY 1974 BY THE
CARAMANLIS GOVERNMENT OF NATIONAL UNITY SHORTLY AFTER IT
TOOK OFFICE. CONTENDING THAT THE SUBSEQUENT
RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE NEW PARLIAMENT WHICH SET
ASIDE THE AMNESTY WAS INVALID SINCE IT WAS
RETROACTIVE, THE DEFENSE COUNSEL SUBMITTED THAT THE
ACCUSED IN THE TORTURE TRIAL SHOULD BENEFIT FROM THE
AMNESTY. THIS, HE CLAIMED, HAD BEEN A

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RESULT OF THE PRE-CONDITION IMPOSED ON CARAMANLIS

BEFORE THE MILITARY WOULD ALLOW HIM TO ASSUME POWER.

3. IN THE FACE OF THIS ACCUSATION, MADE IN THE CHARGED ADMOSPHERE OF THE TORTURE TRIAL COURTROOM, THE CARAMANLIS GOVERNMENT EVIDENTLY FELT COMPELLED TO ISSUE STILL ANOTHER DISCLAIMER. LAST EVENING "A COMPETENT SOURCE", REFERRING TO THE DEFENSE LAWYER'S CHARGE, WENT PUBLIC AND DENIED THAT CARAMANLIS HAD EVER STRUCK A DEAL WITH THE DICTATORSHIP. REPEATING THE PARTY LINE, THE "COMPETENT SOURCE" EMPHASIZED THAT, CONTRARY TO THE CHARGE, CARAMANLIS HAD, HIMSELF, IMPOSED TWO CONDITIONS: (A) THAT THE MILITARY RETURN TO ITS DUTIES (I.E., THE BARRACKS) AND (B) THAT THE POLITICAL LEADERSHIP OF THE NATION SUPPORT HIS EFFORTS TO RESTORE DEMOCRACY.

4. THE OPPOSITION HAS FREQUENTLY CHARGED THAT THERE HAD BEEN A TRADE-OFF --CARAMANLIS ASCENDING TO POWER IN EXCHANGE FOR THE AGREEMENT THAT THE LEADERS OF THE MILITARY JUNTA WOULD NOT BE PROSECUTED. WHILE THE GOVERNMENT HAS BEEN EQUALLY PERSISTENT IN ITS REBUTTALS, IT APPEARS ESPECIALLY SENSITIVE TO THIS ALLEGATION SINCE TAKING ACTION LAST MONTH TO COMMUTE THE DEATH SENTENCES IMPOSED ON PAPADOPOULOS, MAKAREZOS AND PATTAKOS. KUBISCH

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